

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled.

2. (Currently amended) A cutting machine according to claim 3 comprising:

a drum on a rotatable drive shaft to be driven by a motor;

a plurality of cutting knives spaced around the perimeter of said drum; and

a knife extension apparatus for extending and retracting each of said plurality of cutting knives relative to the periphery of said drum, wherein the cutting knives are grouped into at least two separate functional sets of the cutting knives, each set linked with ~~the~~ a corresponding knife extension ~~arrangements~~ apparatus by means of a respective driving chain placed on each side of the ~~cutterhead~~ drum, the cutting knives in each of said functional sets being arranged alternately to each other along the perimeter surface of the ~~cutterhead~~ drum above the corresponding knife extension ~~arrangement~~ apparatus, and, wherein each separate functional cutting knife set comprise 2^[n] single cutting knives, where [n] is an integer number.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Currently amended) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 3 2 further comprising a motor separate from the motor that rotates the drum for driving said knife extension apparatus.

5. (Currently amended) A cutting machine ~~as claimed in claim 3~~ comprising:

a drum on a rotatable drive shaft to be driven by a motor;

a plurality of cutting knives spaced around the perimeter of said drum;

a knife extension apparatus for extending and retracting each of said plurality of cutting knives relative to the periphery of said drum, wherein said knife extension apparatus for each blade comprises: ~~a drive chain which at each end of each said blade,~~

a motor ~~on said drive~~ at each of ~~opposite sides~~ end of said drive shaft that drives a corresponding worm gear;

a drive ~~claim~~ chain at each end of said plurality of blades ~~lopped~~ cutting knives looped over ~~said drive chain which at~~ the corresponding end of each of said plurality of knife blades cutting knives; and

drive coupling apparatus between said worm gear associated with each said motor and a corresponding drive chain to rotate the corresponding drive chain in opposite directions to extend and retract each said cutting knife.

6. (Currently amended) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 5 wherein said drive coupling apparatus further comprises a shaft having a gear at one end that meshes with a corresponding motor worm gear and a gear at the other end that engages the corresponding drive chain.

7. (Previously presented) A cutting machine as claimed in claim 5 wherein said drive shaft has a hollow part on opposite outer sides of said drum; and

a stub drive shaft for each said motor extending within a said hollow part of said drive shaft, each said stub shaft having one end driven by a corresponding drive motor and a gear at the other end to mesh with the corresponding worm gear.